

From: Carolyn Cooper
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 1:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse:

I am emailing about the Microsoft Settlement. It is important that we protect the rights of individuals against corporations in America, and Microsoft is not going to concede unless we make them.

I'd like to focus on just one of these issues which needs to be remedied. Protocols and file formats need to be openly available. For one, it is a widely accepted fact in theoretical research that the only way a protocol can be really secure, is if it is based on the theory in its algorithms, not on the secretness of its methods. When Microsoft hides its protocols, it may leave security holes that we cannot discover until they are broken. Secondly, and most importantly, Microsoft uses its monopoly in the Operating Systems market to create a monopoly in the software market. If I create a file using Microsoft Office, I should have the right to use that information with another operating system. Microsoft needs to be required to make their file formats available to other programs so that I own my own files. At this point in time, my creations in Microsoft are very difficult to export, and in a certain way, Microsoft owns them. I request you to protect my work, and my rights as an individual.

Thank you,

Carolyn Cooper
Princeton, NJ